

## لا تفكر بمريم

ردّ على الأخ اليمني الذي يريد الزواج من الطيارة الإماراتية مريم المنصوري

يا بن اليمن لا تشتكي حبّ مريم  
قبلك فؤادي من هواها تحطم

وإن كنت فيها يا بن الأجواد مغروم  
أنا بها قبلك متيمّ ومغرم

مريم مهرها عاليًا غالي السوم  
مهرة جزرع اللي لمريم تقدّم

طنبًا وطنب اللي بهن شعب مكلوم  
وأيضًا أبو موسى لمن كان يعلم

اللي يحرّهن بها يبشر اليوم  
وبشرع ربّه بالهنوف يتنعم

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# Don't Think about Maryam

April 24, 2015

After the well advertised participation of the first female Emirati fighter pilot, Maryam al-Mansuri, in the coalition bombing of ISIS, an anonymous Yemeni poet who styled himself “The Poet of Ma’rib” (*shā’ir ma’rib*) wrote her a tongue-in-cheek love poem. Hajaya responded to the poem using the same rhyme and meter by discouraging him in his “love” for her, lamenting the Iranian “occupation” of certain islands in the Strait of Hormuz and expressing his fear of Iranian encroachment in the Middle East.

A response to my Yemeni brother who wants to marry the Emirati pilot Maryam al-Mansuri

*In lines 1-7, Hajaya discourages the Yemeni poet in his love for Maryam:*

Oh son of Yemen, don't complain of Maryam's love  
She shattered my heart well before she did yours

If you, oh son of good men, are infatuated,  
Then before you was I too in her thrall

Bidding for Maryam's dowry starts high  
Whoever steps up should know: islands are her dowry

Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb, home to a wounded people  
And Abu Musa too, for those who knew<sup>1</sup>

5   Whoever frees them can today expect,  
By God's law, to delight in that pretty, young girl

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<sup>1</sup> I.e. islands captured by Iran in 1971 and claimed by the UAE; Hajaya claims that many Arabs do not know about this conflict.

وأنا ترى ماين على ابن مكتوم  
هات المهر وابشر لأنك ولد عم

يابن اليمن هذا المهر صار مفهوم  
إن ما دفعته لا تفكر بمرير

ومن عبد ربه لا تحرى لك علوم  
خله بحاله يشتكي واهج الهم

صنعا بها الحوئي تترس ومد عوم  
وهاذي جموعه كل يومًا تقدّم

وماهي بعيدة يابن عمي يبي يوم 10  
يحكم بهاروس اليعارب معتم

وعلي ابن صالح حايطين به قروم  
ومن أجل عينه أرخصوا غالي الدم

وايران في وسط البحر سفنها تعوم  
والمرجعية للأوامر ترى قم

وبوتن يراقب بالخفا قصعة القوم  
والعم أو باما بها اليوم يلهم

I guarantee you Maktum's approval<sup>2</sup>  
 So get the dowry, hope for the best, for you're her cousin<sup>3</sup>

Son of Yemen, her dowry's become known  
 So if you can't pay it, don't even think about her

*In lines 8-12, Hajaya warns of the Iranian threat to Yemen:*

Don't seek help from 'Abd Rabbuh<sup>4</sup>  
 Leave him alone to lament his burning woes

In Sanaa the Houthis are fortified and reinforced  
 And their gangs advance more every day

10 Oh cousin, there may soon come a day  
 When a turbaned Shiite rules the Arabs<sup>5</sup>

Around 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih warriors stand guard<sup>6</sup>  
 Who for him count cheap their precious blood

Iran's boats float in the midst of the sea  
 Their orders' authority comes from Qom<sup>7</sup>

*In lines 13-18, Hajaya reviews the Arab world's problems:*

Putin spies on the Arabs' dish in secret<sup>8</sup>  
 The dish Master Obama today devours<sup>9</sup>

2 I.e. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Maktum, vice president and prime minister of the UAE and emir of Dubai.

3 I.e. recapture the Tunb islands and Abu Musa from Iran, and Shaykh Muhammad will accept them as Maryam's dowry; the marriage of paternal cousins (*wilād amm*) in Bedouin culture is favored because it replicates the male line.

4 'Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, president of Yemen since 27 February 2012 and leader of the resistance to the Houthis and to 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih in the Yemeni Civil War.

5 I.e. when Iran takes over the Arabs' lands in Yemen or elsewhere.

6 I.e. the president of Yemen from 1990-2012.

7 The "largest center for Shia scholarship in the world" from "Qom," Wikipedia.

8 In reference to the prophetic hadith that the end of times is near when the nations fall upon the Arabs like diners upon a dish; see also line 19 of "Brave Men Slaughtered".

9 "uncle" (*'amm*), or "master" in Bedouin Arabic.

وحنًا نعيش بملهنا نصر مزعوم  
وبغداد قبل الشام تدميرها تم

15 ومصر العروبة بين ظالم ومظلوم  
شبت بها نار الفتن والبلاعم

وفي ليبيا حقت على خط مرسوم  
وكل على ذبحة معمر تدم

هذا الربيع اللي به الشر محتوم  
بالذبح جانا والدمار المحتم

وحنًا قصيد ومهرجانات وفلوم  
وحبّ وغزل وأحلام وسباق وقم

ومريم تطير وفي سما حزننا تحوم  
وما همها حيّ وحبك وتفهم

20 لا بدّ تلقاه من بلاد مكتوم  
صقرٍ بها يغرم وهي فيه تغرم

We live on our dreams of alleged victories<sup>10</sup>  
And before Syria Baghdad was destroyed

- 15 The Arabs' Egypt is either oppressing or being oppressed  
As fires of strife and distress break out

In Libya Haftar walks his prescribed path<sup>11</sup>  
While everyone regrets Qaddafi's slaughter

This Spring, in which evil's ordained  
And ruin's written, came to us full of slaughter

Yet we're all about poetry, festivals, films,  
Love, flirtation, fantasies, camel races and summits<sup>12</sup>

*In lines 19-20, Hajaya tells the Yemeni poet the bitter truth:*

While Maryam flies in our sadness' skies, know this:  
She's not thinking about my love or yours

- 20 No doubt she'll find herself, in the land of Maktūm,<sup>13</sup>  
A falcon she'll fall for, who'll fall for her too

10 I.e. over Israel, Iran, and the United States; the Arabs did not so much "win" the 2006 Lebanon war, the 1980s Iran-Iraq War, the Second Iraq War, or the 1973 War, but many of them congratulate themselves and claim that they did.

11 Khalifah Haftar, Libyan general and commander of the Libyan National Army in the Second Libyan Civil War; i.e. he walks his path as prescribed by the CIA, Hajaya explains.

12 I.e. distractions that do not help the Arab Nation or advance the cause of Arab Nationalism; Hajaya explained over WhatsApp: "if you sit in any sitting in the Gulf and many Arab countries you don't hear anything but talk about marriage and women. And you feel that those people don't have any concerns except in the area of women and flirting with them. And the concerns and pains and catastrophes of the [Arab] Nation don't occupy but a small area of their thought" (*idhā tajlis fī ayy jalsah fī al-khalīj wa-kathīr min ad-duwal al-'arabiyyah la tasma' illā al-ḥadīth 'an az-zawāj wa-n-nisā', wa-tash'ur inna ha'ulā' an-nās laysa lahum hamm illā fī mawdū' an-nisā' wa-l-ghazal bihin, wa-humūm wa-awjā' al-ummah wa-maṣā'ibhā la tahtall illā masāḥah ṣaghīrah min tafkīrhum*; 20 January 2016).

13 I.e. the United Arab Emirates.